

RA-1588

Ruins of Farm Complex  
Near Aberdeen, Md.

Capsule-Summary

The site of this former farm complex is slated to become a light industrial park. There was no recordable fabric left, but there were a number of building ruins, indicating that this was at one time a typical large scale farming operation, no doubt connected in some way with the canning industry that played such an important role in Harford County's economy.

HAGIA 1315687635

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mitchell Farm Complex

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

southwest corner Old Philadelphia Rd. and Short Lane (RD. 175)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

\_\_\_ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Aberdeen Industrial Center Partnership

c/o Mr. Bruce Hegstad

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rt 1 P.O. Box 700

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 215

and others

Folio #: 297

STREET &amp; NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

HA-1597

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☒ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

At the request of the Maryland Historical Trust, two sites surveyors visited this site in late December, 1980. A brief walking tour revealed a number of residential and agricultural structures, all in advanced states of deterioration or collapse. No measurements or photographs were taken at this time: loss of state funding and time constraints imposed by the Dept. of Planning prevented any additional visits to gather more information.

This was a large agricultural complex that has been abandoned for a number of years. It occupies the entire southwest corner of the intersection of Old Philadelphia Road and Short Lane. Two balloon frame residences—two story L-plan structures with gable end roofs were observed. Circular sawn materials, cut nails and mouldings, as well as the lack of large cooking fireplaces suggest late 19th century construction dates. These may have been tenant houses. They are both on the verge of total collapse.

There was an open equipment shed, constructed by the post in ground method, and incorporating circular sawn materials, with a modern metal roof. Two small (15'x 25') sheds that appeared to have been living quarters for farm workers were seen. These incorporated interior brick flues and were built on the ground with no basement or crawl space. Also, there was a single story shed/garage combination (15' x 25') that appeared to have been short term housing. A large bank barn with a stone foundation had burned long before this visit, and nothing of recordable value was left.

The 1964 aerial photographs, and the aerial photos from more current years that are used by the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning show this complex as it was in those years. A better understanding of the buildings and the size of the complex will be had from examining them.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY:)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land around the buildings on this site was still being used to grow corn when this site was visited in December 1980. However the area was far from being a farm in the traditional sense of the word. In fact, this land is slated to become an industrial site on the edge of the City of Aberdeen, and may even be annexed. Such a conversion underscores the dramatic shift in land use and life styles occurring not only here, but in other parts of Harford County. Light industry has replaced agriculture in many areas.

Unfortunately there was no recordable fabric left at this site. However, it was in all probability a typical large scale farming operation with 19th century trappings, including numerous outbuildings.

Note-no title search done for this site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Phillip Lord/Wayne Nield Historic Site Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning &amp; Zoning

DATE

January 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

830-6000

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE  
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



J. Thomas Barringer  
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

HA-1588

Guy W. Hager, AICP

December 29, 1980

Mr. Bruce Hegstad, President  
Hazleton Systems, Inc.  
P.O. Box 700  
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

Dear Mr. Hegstad,

In response to a request from the Maryland Historical Trust, on December 16, 1980, Harford County Historic Sites Surveyors, Wayne Nield and Phillip Lord, visited a tract of land located at the southeast corner of Old Philadelphia Road and Short Lane (Md. Rt. 715) owned by the Aberdeen Industrial Center Partnership. Contained in this area are the ruins of an extensive agricultural complex dating from the late 19th century and early 20th centuries, once owned by the Mitchell family. The Mitchells are significant for their association with agriculture and the canning industry in Harford County.

Since it is likely that planned development will require the demolition of this site for an industrial center, we would ask that razing be delayed until we can record these older structures. This process would take less than a week, and would ensure that an important component of Harford County's history is not lost forever.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Very truly yours,

Guy W. Hager, AICP  
Director, Department of  
Planning and Zoning

GWH:mm

cc: Aberdeen Town Commissioners

HA-1588

